Reviewer's report

Title: Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in irritable bowel syndrome: are there any predictors?

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Reviewer: Philippe Ducrotte

Reviewer's report:

The topic of the Reddymasu's paper is interesting because it is a very important question to know whether some IBS patients have to be treated with antibiotics. The authors of this paper report the results of a substantial number of patients and the paper is well written.

However, the paper cannot be accepted in the current form and the author must answer to the following questions :

- were the 98 patients consecutive or not ? Did the author refer for a breath test any patient seeking medical advice for IBS ?

- many patients (more than 35 %) were treated by opiates. This is very unusual in IBS. The author have to explain why they receive this treatment.

- the authors report that SIBO was more frequent in patients older than 55. Due to the lack of control group, it is very difficult to interpret this association. The question is wether the high frequency of SIBO related to IBS or is it rather due to age ? The authors have to comment this point and outline this major weakness of their study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest